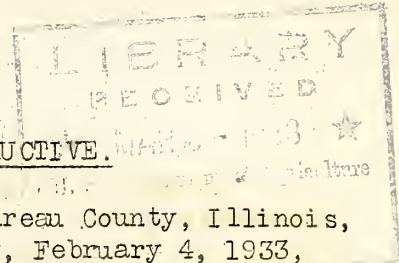


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OUR CLUB MEETINGS ARE INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE.

A radio talk by Lucille Albrecht, 4-H club girl, Bureau County, Illinois, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, Saturday, February 4, 1933, broadcast by a network of 57 associate NBC radio stations.

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In our club meetings, members learn how to preside properly. This subject is not studied especially, but one learns by watching others, and by taking part when asked. A club member who has held any of the offices in a club learns how to preside, take roll-call, and to discharge the other duties of officers. This training may prove very valuable later. You may sometime be called on to preside either for a small group, or at a large gathering where there are many strangers. How much nicer to be able to do it with ease, rather than to be tongue tied and frightened. We learn the qualities needed for leadership, and, through practice, have developed them ourselves.

At our meetings there is always a discussion of some phase of the project on which we are working. This year I was a member of a canning club. At every meeting there were demonstrations by our leaders and usually one by a member. For example, we had a jelly-making demonstration by a member who had previously made jelly. In this way, the girls obtained practice in speaking and demonstrating before an audience.

Our meetings are made interesting by talks, music, and games. At one time, we had as a feature of our programs, reports on interesting magazine articles. We were free to choose any article we thought interesting or amusing. One entertaining report told of the life of a dare-devil animal trainer. A phase we all enjoyed was the talks on famous paintings and musical compositions. We also had talks by members on subjects relating to the project. At a canning club meeting, for instance, we had discussions on types of spoilage and how to prevent them.

One subject that combines both interesting and instructive features is the health talks. We learn to take proper care of our bodies by eating the most wholesome food and wearing correct clothing. Closely related to this is a subject in which almost every boy and girl is interested, how to become better-looking. This is vitally related to health, because a healthy person is always better looking than an ill one. In girl's clubs, we learn to improve our looks by selection of becoming colors in our clothing. The subject of health is always one of the most interesting topics, because it covers such a large territory and is something everyone wants to learn.

A regular part of our programs is devoted to games and stunts. In our joint meetings of the boys' and girls' clubs, games not only entertain the members, but also enable us to become better acquainted with other boys and girls interested in the same things. We find that a lively game, played at the beginning of a meeting, seems to relieve the stiffness and formality a great deal. In our county meetings, the games are always the most enjoyable feature.

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Often our club programs are of value to the community. Our demonstrations are always given in a public meeting. Very often, persons in the audience have told us of things we showed, that they had not known before. Last summer, we demonstrated canning beans with a pressure cooker. Every housewife cans beans, but since comparatively few are familiar with the operation of a pressure cooker, we taught them something new. In this way, we teach our community better methods of doing work, whether that work be baking a cake, or making a dress. By our training in organization and leadership, we are better able to take an active part in community affairs, both in church and school.

One of the greatest forces in 4-H work is the part which has to do with competition. Competition, it is often said, places more emphasis upon the financial regard than upon the satisfaction and training received from devoting all one's energies to performing a job well. But I think this applies less in 4-H work than in any other field. There is a thrill that comes from knowing that something you have constructed with your own hands or through your own efforts, is good enough to be on top in competition with a large number of others. That is the driving force that has kept, and will continue to keep, the standards of 4-H achievement so very high.